

Grace United Methodist Church

May 22, 2022



OUR WELCOMING STATEMENT

We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status.

We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

We are all invited to bless this church with our love, our presence, and our participation.



gracedesmoines.org
facebook.com/DesMoinesGrace
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WORSHIP

Thank you for joining us for worship. Together, we will join in liturgy, hymns, prayers, and a message to connect with God and one another. Our service today is led by Rev. Nate Nims; Kristen Erickson, Liturgist; Ann Gerdorn, Music Director and Organist; and Michael Gookin, Choir Director. In hymns, prayers, and liturgies, feel free to use language that makes worship meaningful, enriching, and inclusive.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
Welcome and Announcements
*Call to Worship
*Opening Hymn UMH 400 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
Opening Prayer
Reading - I John 2:3-6
Sermon
Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer
Anthem "Love Never Ends" by Mark Burrows
Volunteer Recognition
*Closing Hymn UMH 399 "Take My Life and Let It Be"
*Benediction
Postlude
* please rise in body or in spirit.
All music used under OneLicense A-727197

The altar flowers are given by Coreen & Todd Witke in celebration of their 30th wedding anniversary today.

IN OUR PRAYERS

The family and friends of Mary Ennis, who died on May 18. Visitation will be at Grace on Thursday, May 26, from 4-7 p.m. The funeral service will also be at Grace on Friday, May 27, at 10:30 a.m. A reception with light refreshments will follow the service.

Carlos Jayne, in hospice care at home.

Maryann Martin, in hospice care at Wesley Acres.

If you would like to have a prayer added to this list, contact Charlene in the church office at charlenehjort@gracedesmoines.org or call 515-255-2131.

NURSERY CARE is available during the service for children 3 and under. Children are always welcome in the service, too! Activity bags for kids are

GIVE TO GRACE

Your support makes everything we do possible. You can give to Grace online at www.gracedesmoines.org, give your offering during worship, or mail your offering to Grace at 3700 Cottage Grove, Des Moines, IA, 50311.

Grace Preschool Transitions

Since 2011, Kelly Donnelly has served as the director of the Grace Preschool. Our church, staff, teachers, and students have been blessed by Kelly's passion and dedication. It is bittersweet to announce that Kelly's last day with Grace Preschool will be June 3. Kelly will be pursuing employment at Drake University, and we wish her the best in her future endeavors. On Sunday, June 5, there will be a reception for Kelly following the 10:15 am worship service. Please join us in sharing our gratitude for Kelly's leadership and service at Grace Preschool. We will also be collecting a love gift as a sign of our thanks. Cash or checks designated for Kelly's love gift may be given to the Grace church office.

As we begin the search for our next Grace Preschool Director, the Grace Preschool Committee is excited to share that Ashley Wissler will be serving as interim director. As a Grace Preschool teacher, Ashley is already familiar with the students, teachers, and policies of Grace Preschool, and Kelly highly recommended Ashley as interim director. The Grace Preschool Committee unanimously voted in support of Ashley as our interim director, and we are excited and grateful for her leadership. I hope you will join the Grace Preschool Committee in thanking and welcoming Ashley into her new role as interim director.

Rev. Nate Nims

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, November 15

Attendance

In Person - 151

Online - 120

Total Giving - \$8,434.87

Pledged - \$5,735.00

Unpledged - \$365.00

Other - \$2,334.87

Coffee with the Pastor

Interested in joining Grace or learning more about the church? Join Rev. Nate after the service on June 5 for coffee with the pastor!

GET CONNECTED

Open Table - If you are looking to connect with others, if you are interested in wrestling with questions of our common humanity, if you are searching for another way to hear God's voice, consider visiting the Open Table. Thursday Nights at Grace from 6 to 7 pm

United Women in Faith focuses on mission, individual growth, spiritual enrichment, education for mission, social issues awareness, leadership development, schools and workshops, and financial support for mission programs and projects throughout the U.S. and around the world. United Women in Faith Circles meet throughout the month and you can learn more by contacting Sandy Guild at slg442930@gmail.com.

Grace Quilters meets on Wednesday morning at 9 am. Every year the Grace Quilters work on a quilt to raise money for missions. Want to learn more? Contact Jenny Joynt at joyntjl@gmail.com.

Game Night at Grace - On the fourth Wednesday of each month, join us at Grace to play games, put together puzzles, and enjoy a meal. Plan to join us on May 25 from 5:30-8 pm for food and fun!

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Knitters meet at 3 pm on the first Sunday of the month in the Church Library. Shawls are given to people who need comfort and support or kudos and thanks.

GET INVOLVED

Free Clinic - The Grace Free Clinic takes place on Tuesday evening with registration from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Patients are seen from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. No appointments are needed, and all services are free. If you want to volunteer to help with the clinic, send an email to gracefreeclinic@gmail.com.

Tuesday Meals - During the clinic, a free meal is provided that can be enjoyed at the church or to-go. Don't feel like cooking on a Tuesday? Come to Grace! You can volunteer to help with the free meal by contacting Mary Paulson at paulsondanmary@msn.com.

Monthly Shelter Meal - On the first day of every month, Grace provides a dinner for residents of the Central Iowa Shelter and Services. Volunteer by contacting Lisa Blair at lb29nholding@yahoo.com.

Ushers, Greeters, and Liturgists - If you'd like to volunteer as an usher, greeter, or liturgist at Grace, get in touch with Pastor Nate (natenims@gracedesmoines.org).

FOOD TRUCK PARTY - SUMMER 2022

You are invited to join us for The Food Truck Vacation Bible School this summer at Grace UMC! We will gather on July 6, 13, 20, 27 and August 3 (all Wednesday evenings) as we learn how God provides for us and loves us. Each evening we will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner before learning our Bible and then exploring crafts, science, mission, and music! Contact Coreen Witke for more information or to register. Phone is 515.255.6400 ext. 230 and email is coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

We will have a charge conference on Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 pm to accept two bequests.

THIS WEEK

Monday, May 23

6:30 pm The Bible Year

Tuesday, May 24

5 pm Tuesday Evening Meal

5:30 pm Free Medical Clinic

Wednesday, May 25

9 am Quilters

5:30 Game Niight

Thursday, May 26

7 am The Bible Year

6 pm The Open Table

7 pm Charge Conference, Ad Council

Sunday, May 29

9 am Sunday School

10:15 am Worship

SAVE THE DATE

Grace Game Night. Activity Center on Wednesday, May 25 from 5:30-8 p.m. Deb Eyestone will be available to teach anyone who is interested how to play Mahjongg. Come join us!

GUIDE TO PRAYER AND STUDY

Monday, May 23

Read - Romans 12:9-18

Notice - While dedicating a chapel, Methodism's founder John Wesley urged, "Let our hearts be joined herein; let us unite our wishes and prayers; let our whole soul pant after a general revival of pure religion and undefiled, the restoration of the image of God, pure love, in every child of man! ...let us, with all diligence, diffuse the religion of love among all." How are you a part of diffusing the religion of love? Of all the ways that Paul encourages us to live with love in our reading today, what is the hardest?

Pray - Lord, please help me to take in, and then live out, "the religion of love." I want to live in love, to live in you and to have you live in me. Amen.

Tuesday, May 24

Read - Mark 7:5-13

Notice - The criticism about unclean hands was less about germs and more about tradition. As an act of ritual purity, people would pour water over their hands or immerse them in water to wash them. Jesus replies to this criticism by challenging another tradition that let people ignore the fifth commandment - honor your mother and father. In the ancient world, people could vow or dedicate their property to the temple and in some cases, this created a loophole where instead of caring for aging parents, children could free themselves of responsibility. What loopholes do you see in the world today? How might you close some of those loopholes in your life?

Pray - Jesus, you know I like "loopholes" that let me do whatever I wish. Deliver me from the urge to look for loopholes that allow me to ignore your command to love one another. Amen.

Wednesday, May 25

Read - Isaiah 10:1-2

Notice - The prophet Isaiah used the words "rob" and "steal" to describe wicked decrees and harmful laws. Scholar David McKenna wrote that Isaiah didn't only address a few unjust leaders. "While God holds elders, judges, and prophets responsible for misleading people, those who follow cannot claim innocence... there is a certain codependency between corrupt leaders and corrupted people. One cannot exist without the other." How do you seek to be a responsible follower in choosing which leaders you follow in business, politics, entertainment and church life?

Pray - God of all, awaken me to any places where I use "legal" as an excuse for something I know down deep isn't "right." Grow me into a responsible

follower, careful to choose leaders of integrity. Amen.

Thursday, May 26

Read - Exodus 20:17, Deuteronomy 19:4

Notice - On its surface, the 10th Commandment is about "property rights." (The patriarchal culture of ancient Israel viewed women and servants as property.) At the same time, the 10th commandment is about looking inward and exploring our attitude and motivation. It's not a sin to admire someone else's nice things. But have you ever found admiration turning into an almost obsessive wish that you could have something (or someone) who "belongs" with someone else? In what ways has God helped you learn to pull away from that kind of excessive, destructive wanting?

Pray - God, it's so much harder to check the 10th Commandment off my "good deeds" list, because it's about my wishes and thoughts. Teach me how to avoid wishing for someone else's good things. Amen.

Friday, May 27

Read - Romans 7:7-12

Notice - For Paul, it was the 10th commandment (which we discussed yesterday) that made him realize he was in need of God's grace and redemption. Have you had a moment of insight like Paul? What caused it? What came from it? For Paul, the 10 commandments are like a mirror, showing us what love can look like and where we fall short with it. If you looked at the 10 commandments like a mirror, what would you see?

Pray - Jesus, help me to see myself and the fullness of your love in the mirror of your commands. When my mirror is smudged or dirty, when I don't like what I see, remind me that you still look at me with love and grace. Amen.

Saturday, May 28

Read - John 13:2-15, 34-35

Notice - Jesus didn't just "talk the talk" about humble service. He "walked the walk." In first-century Palestine, washing others' feet was normally a servants task. Dirt roads made feet filthy. When you entered a home, you would wash your feet or the youngest child or lowliest servant would wash the feet of guests. At the last supper, Jesus wants to make sure the disciples get the point. John 13 encourages us to wonder - am I worried about who appears to be the greatest or am I living with the greatest kind of love?

Pray - Jesus, teach me how to find my glory in serving God and others, as you did, rather than in having others serve me. This is a hard prayer, but I mean it. Amen.